

Appl. No. : 09/904,462
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C1
in the Examples below. Using BLAST and FastA sequence alignment computer programs, Applicants found that various portions of the PRO229 polypeptide have significant homology with antigen wcl1.1, M130 antigen, and T cell surface glycoprotein CD6. It also is related to Sp-alpha. Accordingly, it is presently believed that PRO229 polypeptide disclosed in the present application is a newly identified member of the family containing scavenger receptor homology, a sequence motif found in a number of proteins involved in immune function and thus possesses immune function and /or segments which resist degradation, typical of this family. —

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 39-43, 47, 48, and 49, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 44, 45, 46, and 50 to read as follows:

- C2
44. (Once amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising:
- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 148; or
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 148, lacking its associated signal peptide,
- wherein said polypeptide induces chondrocyte proliferation.
- C2
45. (Once amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 44 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 148.
46. (Once amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 44 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 148, lacking its associated signal peptide.
- C3
50. (Once amended) A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim 44 fused to a heterologous polypeptide.